

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USUN NEW YORK 651

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY ID

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT BACKS INDONESIA ON TIMOR

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 7198

1. SUMMARY. GOM HAS COME OUT CLEARLY IN SUPPORT OF INDONESIA. IN WAKE OF GOI MILITARY INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR. DEC 12 VOTE AGAINST GENERAL ASSEMBLY TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION DEPLORING INDONESIAN ACTION, DECEMBER 13 FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT, DECEMBER 14 COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN, AND PRESS COVERAGE ALL EXPRESS SUPPORT OR APPROVAL FOR COURSE INDONESIA HAS TAKEN TO SOLVE TIMOR PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGINNING WITH ITS DECEMBER 12 VOTE AGAINST THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION DEPLORING JAKARTA'S MILITARY INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR, GOM HAS TAKEN CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAND IN SUPPORT OF INDONESIAN ACTION IN TIMOR. ON DECEMBER 13

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED STATEMENT WHICH BLAMED TIMOR'S TROUBLES ON PORTUGUESE NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY, NOTED THAT "THEREFORE THERE IS NO LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND ORDER IN THE TERRITORY," AND STATED THAT "UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT THEREFORE ACCEPTS THE DECISION OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW INDONESIAN VOLUNTEERS TO ENTER PORTUGUESE TIMOR AT THE INVITATION OF THE MODERATE GROUPS IN ORDER TO ASSIST THEM TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER SO THAT THEY CAN DECIDE THEIR FUTURE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY." STATEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT INDONESIANS SUPPORT UN MISSION TO TIMOR TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO EXERCISE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. ON DECEMBER 14 FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN STATED THAT MALAYSIA IS PREPARED TO PLAY WHATEVER ROLE WITHIN HER CAPACITY IN A JOINT EFFORT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR TO EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION AND COMPLETE DECOLONIZATION. RITHAUDDEEN NOTED THAT "MALAYSIA IS CONCERNED OVER WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL CONCERNED TO BRING ABOUT STABILITY, PEACE AND ORDER TO THE REGION."

4. PRESS NOW GENERALLY SUPPORTS GOM LINE IN EDITORIALS. IN CONTRAST WITH DECEMBER 9 "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) EDITORIAL (REFTEL) WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INDONESIA'S METHODS ARE OPEN TO QUESTION, DECEMBER 14 NST EDITORIAL STATED: "THE MORALITY OF THE INDONESIAN ACTION IS UNDER FIRE FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS BUT JAKARTA SIMPLY COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY AND LET THE LEFTIST FREILIN SEIZE POWER UNILATERALLY...JAKARTA COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO ALLOW THE THREAT OF INSURGENCY AT ITS DOORSTEP. IF THE INDONESIAN PRESENCE IN DILI PREVENTS FURTHER FIGHTING IS IT NOT GOOD?"

5. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE RELATIVELY PRO-INDONESIAN EDITORIAL POSITION HAS BEEN A PORTION OF THE CHINESE PRESS WHICH GENERALLY FOLLOWS PEKING LINE WHEN THIS NOT COUNTER TO EDITORIAL DIRECTION FROM GOM. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY THE CASE BEFORE GOM BEGAN OPEN SUPPORT FOR INDONESIAN POSITION. DECEMBER 9 "NANYANG SIANG PAU" EDITORIAL QUESTIONED TER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RITORIAL AMBITIONS OF INDONESIA AND CALLED INDONESIAN ACTION "THE INTERVENTION OF AN OUTSIDE FORCE (WHICH) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NO MATTER UNDER WHAT EXCUSE THEY ENTERED THE TERRITORY." DECEMBER 11 "KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS" (KKDN) CALLED INDONESIA'S ACTION "SHEER INVASION WITHOUT A DOUBT", APPROVED PORTUGAL'S SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA, AND SAID THAT UNLESS UN DIS-PATCHES A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE TO TIMOR, "INDONESIA WILL CON-

TINUE TO DESTROY PEACE BY HER MILITARY OPERATIONS." HOWEVER,  
DECEMBER 16 KKDN EDITORIAL, WHILE CONTINUING TO ACCUSE  
INDONESIA OF ARMED INTERVENTION, APPROVED SENDING  
A UN FACT-FINDING TEAM TO EAST TIMOR TO ALLOW INDONESIA  
TO PROVE SHE HAS NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS. MILDEN LINE  
TAKEN BY CHINESE PRESS AFTER GOM POSITION ON TIMOR  
CLARIFIED REFLECTS SENSITIVITY TO CLEAR STATEMENTS OF GOM  
POSITION AND PROBABLY TO GOVERNMENT PRESSURE.  
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